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THE PROSPERITY OF SOUTHERN AGRICULTURE.

The Progressive Farmer last week called attention to the fact that of all the States in the American Union only one during the census decade 1890—1900 made as great a gain in rank in population, agriculture and manufactures as did North Carolina.

But it is not in North Carolina alone that this prosperity obtains. Southern agriculture generally, according to the Census of 1900, is more prosperous and yielding larger net returns than that of other sections of the United States—and all this on the basis of figures made before the recent phenomenal advance in price of cotton.

Taking the gross value of farm products and deducting therefrom the gross value of products fed to stock and the amounts paid for labor and fertilizer, it will be seen that in net value of farm products, Southern farming in the census year 1899 paid a dividend of 25.0 per cent while the rest of the country paid an average of only 14.2 per cent. That is to say, upon its fixed investment of \$3,951,631,632, the South received in net value of products \$988,905,593—exactly 25 per cent—while the rest of the country on a fixed investment of \$16,488,269,532 received only \$2,342,401,024, or 14.2 per cent. Farming in North Carolina paid a dividend of 29.6 per cent, South Carolina 33.8 per cent, Virginia 19.1 per cent, Georgia 34.6 per cent, and Tennessee 24 per cent.

And it is to be noted furthermore that in the twenty-year period, 1880-1900, "the value of lands with improvements increased 67 per cent in the South and 62 per cent in the whole country; of implements, 120 per cent in the South and 84 per cent in the whole country, and of live stock 88 per cent in the South and 95 per cent in the whole country."

"But what is raised in The Progressive Farmer's territory—North Carolina and adjoining States?" a Western or Northern reader may ask, "Aren't the main crops cotton and tobacco which require little improved machinery and other modern agricultural improvements?"

Not at all. Of our chief sources of agricultural wealth in 1899, animal products led with a value of \$111,000,000; corn—and not cotton—was second with \$104,000,000; cotton third with \$96,000,000; vegetables,

next to cotton, \$30,000,000—for the trucking industry is growing every year and Eastern North Carolina and Virginia is becoming a great garden spot for Northern markets; hay and fodder fifth, \$24,000,000; wheat next, \$20,000,000; tobacco fourth, \$19,000,000, while forest products—our lumbering enterprises—bring in an annual income of \$18,000,000.

But that this information may be more explicit, here are the figures which the reader may examine for himself:

I.—Animal Products.

Georgia	\$17,959,133
North Carolina	20,684,726
South Carolina	9,376,499
Tennessee	35,421,198
Virginia	27,846,803

Total\$111,288,359

II.—Corn.

Georgia	\$34,032,230
North Carolina	17,304,407
South Carolina	9,149,808
Tennessee	28,059,508
Virginia	16,233,756

Total\$104,779,709

III.—Cotton.

Georgia	\$42,534,235
North Carolina	15,696,952
South Carolina	29,590,152
Tennessee	8,192,642
Virginia	346,600

Total\$96,360,581

IV.—Vegetables.

Georgia	\$5,735,141
North Carolina	6,103,957
South Carolina	4,064,847
Tennessee	5,146,592
Virginia	9,083,274

Total\$30,133,811

V.—Hay and Forage.

Georgia	\$3,034,992
North Carolina	4,242,561
South Carolina	2,304,734
Tennessee	6,811,577
Virginia	7,670,082

Total\$24,063,946

VI.—Wheat.

Georgia	\$1,547,773
North Carolina	3,463,726
South Carolina	958,158
Tennessee	7,882,697
Virginia	6,161,000

Total\$20,013,354

VII.—Tobacco.

Georgia	\$159,659
North Carolina	8,038,691
South Carolina	1,297,293
Tennessee	2,748,495
Virginia	7,210,195

Total\$19,454,333

VIII.—Forest Products.

Georgia	\$3,217,119
North Carolina	4,915,991
South Carolina	1,915,280
Tennessee	5,086,624
Virginia	3,797,116

Total\$18,932,130

IX.—Cottonseed.

Georgia	\$6,447,297
North Carolina	2,290,711
South Carolina	4,973,401
Tennessee	974,046
Virginia	34,943

Total\$14,720,403

X.—Orchard Products.

Georgia	\$497,847
North Carolina	1,269,614
South Carolina	272,794
Tennessee	1,479,915
Virginia	2,662,483

Total\$6,182,653

XI.—Oats.

Georgia	\$1,383,758
North Carolina	991,516
South Carolina	1,226,575
Tennessee	887,940
Virginia	1,103,616

Total\$5,593,405

XII.—Peanuts.

Georgia	\$935,749
North Carolina	1,852,110
South Carolina	106,018
Tennessee	392,648
Virginia	2,261,148

Total\$5,547,673

XIII.—Peas.

Georgia	\$953,241
North Carolina	649,194
South Carolina	859,932
Tennessee	767,840
Virginia	218,477

Total\$3,448,684

XIV.—Small Fruits.

Georgia	\$90,785
North Carolina	599,963
South Carolina	59,486
Tennessee	593,092
Virginia	765,097

Total\$2,108,423

XV.—Sugar Cane Products.

Georgia	\$1,480,704
North Carolina	1,412
South Carolina	429,425

Total\$1,911,541

XVI.—Sorghum Products.

Georgia	\$250,592
North Carolina	446,897
South Carolina	178,323
Tennessee	647,129
Virginia	196,915

Total\$1,719,856

Let us Have Mass Meetings of Tobacco Growers.

Editors Progressive Farmer:

Sometime ago I noticed in your paper President S. C. Adams, of the Tobacco Growers' Association of Virginia wrote an article suggesting to the farmers of North Carolina the necessity of organization, to which article Dr. Freeman, of Wilson, N. C., replied with his approval, but with the question, "Who

is to lead them?"—carrying with it the idea that in his opinion there was no one suitable or prepared to do the work. This opinion he has expressed in reply to a later communication by Mr. Adams, urging upon the people the need of "unity of action," especially in the marketing of their crops, saying that he knows of no man in North Carolina who has the needed qualifications to perform that task.

The Doctor says there are only two things necessary to the organization of the farmers—they are the right man and money—and states "that the latter is ready." Then, according to Dr. Freeman, if a leader may be found, the farmers will be free.

Now, I want to ask Dr. Freeman just these few questions through your paper:

1. Does he believe it necessary for the farmers to organize?

2. Is he in real sympathy with the movement?

3. Has the time fully ripened, or the opportunity fully matured, for the farmer to unite?

If the answer to the last question be in the affirmative, then I believe the leader is ready. If the people are ready to organize they have only to search among their ranks for a captain to guide them. We need not expect any one, be he ever so well qualified to offer his services and lead unless we ask him to do so.

Mr. Adams has repeatedly insisted upon the tobacco growers of North Carolina calling mass meetings, and notify him of time and place, he offering his presence to assist us in our co-operations. Yet no one so far as I have seen has responded with such a call. But instead, Dr. Freeman replies saying we have not "the right man."

Does not Dr. Freeman know that such expressions as he gives rent to such expression as he gives vent to President Adams or anyone else who may offer assistance? What has become of the interests of the influential, well-to-do farmer? Are they well preserved? If so, they are in better hands than those of us poor little one-horse suckers. Will not some one call a meeting and organize the tobacco growers of this State? Let us see.

S. E. HARDISON.

Martin Co., N. C.

Have you any improved farm machinery, reapers, saw-mills, cotton-gins, etc., for sale? Then in our Farmer's Exchange.